

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7831

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 2941

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CO

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT LOPEZ STATE VISIT

REF STATE 64702

1. DATES OF SEPTEMBER 25 AND 26 RAISED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AS TENTATIVE POSSIBILITY PER REFTEL. MINISTER THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE SATISFACTORY IN PRINCIPLE. HE WILL DISCUSS WITH PRESIDENT, AND WILL WISH DISCUSS DATES AND PERHAPS OTHER ASPECTS OF VISIT WHILE IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK (BOGOTA 2940).
 2. SINCE COLOMBIAN CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, DR ERNESTO TORRES, WILL ACCOMPANY FOREIGN MINISTER TO WASHINGTON, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT MEETING BE SET UP BETWEEN TORRES AND AMBASSADOR CATTO AND/OR OTHER APPROPRIATE CPR OFFICIALS TO EXPLAIN TO TORRES STRUCTURE OF A STATE VISIT, WHAT IS ENTAILED, WHAT KINDS OF THINGS WE NEED PREPARE FOR, ETC. THIS WOULD BE DISCUSSION IN PRINCIPLE NOT RPT NOT DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC DETAILS FOR THIS SPECIFIC VISIT. SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE GOOD FOUNDATION FOR LATER SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS, GIVE PRESIDENT LOPEZ TIME TO THINK ABOUT WHAT HE MAY WANT TO DO, ETC AND WILL SMOOTH THINGS FOR LATER.
 3. REGARDING WASHINGTON SEGMENT AND WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE PARAGRAPH 3 STATE 58875, I WANT TO STRESS THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ UNDERSTANDS AND DESIRES THE WASHINGTON VISIT TO BE A CONSULTATION/WORKING VISIT NOT RPT NOT
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CEREMONIAL. HE STRESSED THIS POINT TO ME STRONGLY WHEN

HE ACCEPTED THE INVITATION (SEE BOGOTA 1501). WHEN
PRESIDENT CARLOS PLERAS PAID A STATE VISIT TO WASHINGTON
IN 1969, HE HAD TWO MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT NIXON. LOPEZ
WHO WAS THEN FOREIGN MINISTER KNOWS
THAT. I VERY STRONGLY
URGE THAT IN ADDITION TO THE NORMAL FIRST DAY SUBSTANTIVE
MEETING THAT A SECOND SHORT MEETING BE SCHEDULED AS A FAREWELL
MEETING PRIOR TO LOPEZ DEPARTURE FROM WASHINGTON AND WHICH
WOULD BE USED TO TIE UP LOOSE ENDS, REVIEW FINAL MATTERS,
ANSWER QUESTIONS RAISED FIRST DAY, ETC.
4. I ALSO URGE THAT THE WASHINGTON SEGMENT BE STRUCTURED FROM THE
POINT OF VIEW OF MAKING CLEAR IT IS A WORKING VISIT. WHAT
ADDITIONAL BRIEFINGS OR MEETINGS MIGHT BE ARRANGED FOR THIS
PURPOSE WILL OBVIOUSLY BE DETERMINED LATER WHEN WE KNOW MORE
ABOUT WHAT THE AGENDA WILL LOOK LIKE, BUT I WISH TO
STRESS THE INDISPENSABLE IMPORTANCE OF THIS GENERAL
CONCEPT FOR WASHINGTON PLANNERS.
VAKY

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